

SENATE—Saturday, January 20, 2001*(Legislative day of Monday, January 8, 2001)*

The Senate met at 3:02 p.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the Honorable HARRY REID, a Senator from the State of Nevada.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, Sovereign of our Nation and Lord of our lives, we begin this 107th Senate with a renewed commitment of our lives to You. The Senators and all of us who are privileged to work with them turn over to You the control of our lives with fresh dedication. Remind us that we are here by Your choice and permission and that You will provide exactly what is needed to meet the challenges and opportunities of each new day. We thank You for our new President and Vice President and their families. Give George W. Bush and DICK CHENEY Your power to lead wisely, the guidance to know and follow Your will, the courage to call all of us to servant leadership, and the desire to forge strong ties between the executive and legislative branches of our Government. May a bond of mutual trust enable creative dialog and constructive debate that move us forward in dealing with the crucial issues before our Nation.

Lord, there is no limit to what we are able to do through women and men who love You and whose hearts have been galvanized into unity and devotion for America. May it be so now, Lord. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDING OFFICER led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will now read a communication to the Senate.

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, January 20, 2001.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule 1, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable HARRY REID, a Senator from the State of Nevada, to perform the duties of the Chair.

STROM THURMOND,
President pro tempore.

Mr. REID thereupon assumed the chair as the Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The acting majority leader is now recognized.

NOTIFICATION TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I send a resolution to the desk concerning the appointment of a new President pro tempore of the Senate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. This resolution is privileged. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 9) notifying the President of the United States of the election of a new President pro tempore.

Mr. ROBERTS. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 9) was agreed to.

NOTIFICATION TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. ROBERTS. I now send a second resolution to the desk also concerning the President pro tempore and ask for its immediate consideration.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. This resolution is also privileged. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 10) notifying the House of Representatives of the election of a new President pro tempore of the Senate.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 10) was agreed to.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from South Carolina, Mr. THURMOND, will be escorted by SENATOR HOLLINGS.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE

The Senator, escorted by Senator HOLLINGS, advanced to the desk of the Acting President pro tempore; the oath prescribed by law was administered to Senator THURMOND by the Acting President pro tempore.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the following nominations be placed directly on the Executive Calendar, that of Colin L. Powell, Paul H. O'Neill, Donald H. Rumsfeld, Donald L. Evans, Spencer Abraham, Rod Paige, Anthony Principi, Ann Veneman, and Mitch Daniels.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the nominations of Donald H. Rumsfeld to be Secretary of Defense, Colin L. Powell to be Secretary of State, Paul H. O'Neill to be Secretary of the Treasury, Ann Veneman to be Secretary of Agriculture, Donald L. Evans to be Secretary of Commerce, Rod Paige to be Secretary of Education, and Spencer Abraham to be Secretary of Energy.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ROBERTS. I further ask unanimous consent, Mr. President, that the nominations be considered en bloc and disposed of en bloc, that each nomination be considered separately in the RECORD, and following the confirmations the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, that the President be immediately notified that the Senate has given its consent to these nominations, and the Senate then return to legislative session.

Mr. REID. Reserving the right to object, Mr. President,

I wish the RECORD to reflect that with regard to the nomination of Spencer Abraham to be Secretary of Energy, I am voting in the negative. I appreciate the fact that we need a Secretary of Energy immediately because of the dire energy crisis in the State of California. My objection to Secretary designee Abraham's nomination is based on the troubling record Mr.